
Editorial

Introducing the Back Volumes Project

The scholarly record of *Individual Differences Research* began in 2003 and reflects years of careful investigation into the structures, processes, and outcomes of human personality and individual differences. Between 2015 and 2024, however, a gap emerged in the journal's publication history due to unforeseen circumstances. This hiatus created a discontinuity in the archival record that we now aim to address with the *Back Volumes Project*.

The *Back Volumes Project* is an initiative to reconstruct missing volumes, preserving the continuity of the journal while highlighting previous contributions in the field. Each reconstructed issue combines:

1. **Archival Featured Articles** – curated republications of historically or thematically relevant works recently added to our archives. These articles allow readers to trace the evolution of ideas and methodologies in the study of individual differences since the early 2000's.
2. **New contributions** – original research intended to fill gaps, provide contemporary perspectives, and maintain the journal's role as a platform for ongoing scientific discourse.

Our aim is not to rewrite history, but to create a coherent archival bridge between earlier volumes and the ongoing output of the journal. Thus, each reconstructed issue is a hybrid: part historical, part new scholarship.

Publishing these volumes online as open access ensures global accessibility to work which might otherwise have a more restricted audience. As such, scholars, students, and practitioners worldwide can freely engage with the journal's archival and contemporary contributions, removing some barriers that might otherwise limit the dissemination of psychological science. All articles—archival and new—are published under the Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 license, permitting use, distribution, and reproduction with proper citation.

For archival articles, the footer displays both the original publication year and the reconstructed volume year (e.g., 2005/2015). For new contributions, the footer shows only the reconstructed volume year (e.g., 2015) to preserve continuity within the archival record.

We envision these volumes serving multiple purposes:

- Preserving continuity for libraries, databases, and researchers tracking the recent development of the field.
- Demonstrating the enduring value of archival research and its relevance to current scientific questions.
- Providing a platform for emerging work that connects past insights with present directions.

We encourage readers to approach the *Back Volumes Project* as both archival and living scholarship. Each volume is designed to be readable, citable, and discoverable, with clear labeling of archival and new contributions.

Importantly, some of the reconstructed volumes may be thematic in focus, while others include a mix of articles that stand on their own. This inaugural reconstructed issue adopts a thematic focus on *worry*—an individual differences construct that remains important to understanding variability in cognitive aspects of emotional experience, mental health outcomes, and personality development pathways (Davey & Wells, 2006; Kelly & Miller, 1999). By bringing together two archival articles and two new contributions, this issue highlights the recent evolution of research on worry across time. The archival pieces examine its connections with attachment models (Simonelli et al., 2004/2015) and early intervention strategies (Martz et al., 2005/2015), while the new contributions introduce fresh perspectives by distinguishing between normal and pathological worry (Kelly, 2015) and by identifying self-actualization as a potential protective factor (Bai, 2015). Together, these articles illustrate worry's dual role as both a co-occurrence and risk factor for anxiety and depression as well as a phenomenon with possibly adaptive and developmental dimensions. Situating historical findings alongside contemporary research underscores worry's enduring significance as an individual differences variable and signals promising directions for future inquiry.

We thank our contributors, readers, and colleagues for their support, and invite you to follow the progress of the *Back Volumes Project* as it unfolds. By filling gaps in the record while extending access to a global readership, we reaffirm the journal's commitment to rigorous, cumulative, and accessible research on individual differences.

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